

- Across / A19 — La Trinidad bakes giant strawberry cake
- Sports / A12 — 'Dark forces' out to seize power, says golf body



- News / A2 — Imelda, brods share stage with Gloria
- Entertainment — Movie producers stand by Philip Salvador in estafa case
- Tanong ng Bayan / A8 — Mga sundalo sa Iraq: Dapat bang ibalik na?



## John O's son dragged into drug controversy

## Just another text joke: Pidals buy into Inquirer

By Carlito Pablo




# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS


# Graft charges filed vs GMA, Lopez firm

*Senate bet says Maynilad granted 'unwarranted benefits'*

## ABS woos Dolphy back home



## 1st debate: Confusion, humor, ads, only 2 bets

## FPJ son's stepfather key supporter of actor

By Carlito Pablo

## THE CHARM OFFENSIVE

## 'White Knight' rides on firm leadership



## 5-yr public high school starts June

# Second FRONTPAGE

# FPJ spooked peso, says GMA

## GMA shares stage with Imelda, brods



MARCOS

## Malaysian peace monitors won't probe JI camps

TOURIST ATTRACTION

# Vietnam offers Spratlys tours

HANOI, Vietnam—Vietnam hopes to start bringing tourists to the territorially disputed Spratly islands next month, an official said Tuesday.

The first trip expected in mid-April would take about 100 tourists by boat to the islands where there are Vietnamese military outposts. [illegible] Spratlys [illegible]

[illegible] chair of the People's Committee of the Spratly Islands District.

"We have to learn some experience from the first tour before we could offer regular tours to both local and foreign tourists in the future," he said.

The tour will be run by [illegible] company, an affiliate of the Navy Command, he said.

The Spratlys, believed to have rich oil and natural gas reserves in the South China Sea, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) off Vietnam's central coast, is claimed in whole or in part by Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia.

The conflicting claims have led to [illegible], including a 2002 incident when Vietnam fired warning shots at Philippine military planes and a number of [illegible] over fishermen crossing into the wrong waters. *AP*

# 1st debate: Confusion, humor, ads, only 2 bets



# SC says it's final: FPJ is natural-born Pinoy

By Philip C. Tubeza

### Fight is not over

# With DQ case out of the way, FPJ ventures into Ping's turf

By Carlito Pablo

### New darling?

### Financial support

# R. Victorio; 90













# Just another text joke …

### Perceptions

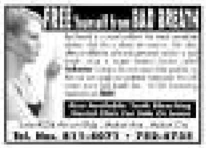
### Ridiculous

### Estrada's boycott











# SuperFerry fire probe in final phase



# Mega Pacific: We don't owe gov't anything

# RP sailors' US lawyer faces contempt raps

# METRO

# New SWAT teams deployed in Metro



# 'Kinse' ad controversy turns ugly

## Brothers in Binondo massacre get death

### Mother's testimony

### Fled to Cavite

## METROBRIEFS

## MMDA plans to impose stiff fines vs drag racers

## Japanese slain



PICKET AT PICC

## Playtime turns tragic for 3 kids

WANTED: PRESIDENT

# Roco gets 'job interview'

## The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

# The WORLD

# World leaders condemn killing of Hamas founder



## Hardliner emerges as Hamas strongman in Gaza

## Top Shiite cleric warns UN against Iraq's breakup

## *4 more suspects charged in Madrid train blasts*




## Taiwan's president agrees to a recount

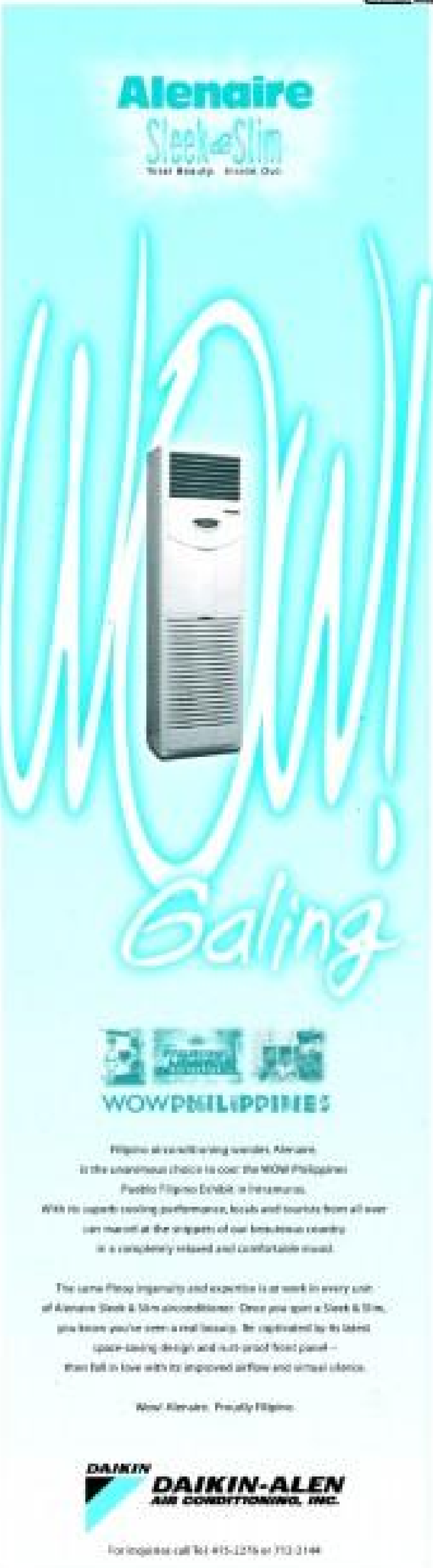
# Cobra kills world champion 'Snake Man'











# SPORTS

Is Pacquiao durable enough? /A26

# Gopez: Dumlao bloc out to seize power



PELICANO

# Jakarta halts Tagaytay; Guangzhou still ahead

# High-altitude training for Manny's foe


MARQUEZ



# Shell-shocked T'chargers up against Tigers

# UAAP honors top badminton, football stars

## SPORTSWATCH





# Is Pacquiao durable enough?

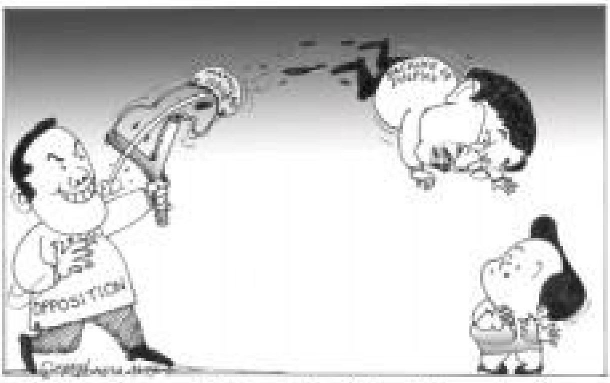
BARE EYE

*Recah Trinidad*



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OPINION




## Losers all

EDITORIAL

## Strong response

FOREIGN COMMENT

## GMA using gov't funds, facilities for reelection

AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

## History lessons

THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

# Still unpredictable

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



# 'You Tan? You tan'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



# Women at a crossroads

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



# What do we prefer to watch on cable TV?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



## THEY SAID

### What's the point?

### Propaganda medium

# The danger in 'sincere ignorance'

LETTERS

## No part in DPWH vehicles scam

## What one district supervisor has done

## Bogus air quality monitoring station

## How about the political prisoners?

# Follow China's lead, Jawo urges RP sports leaders

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

# 8 Vis-Min players make final tryouts

DUMAGUETE CITY—A tower of power and a deadly shooter from University of Mindanao lead eight aspirants from the Visayas and Mindanao who advanced to the final tryouts for the men's basketball national training pool recently.

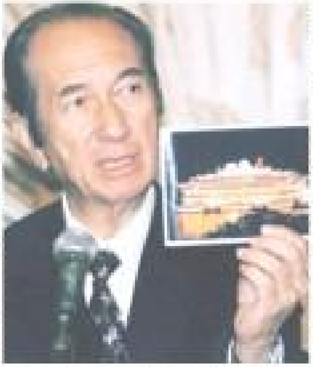
## 3-cock derby sizzles at LP Coliseum

## RACING TIPS

# Across the NATION

## Ballot-snatch history keeps Comelec on its toes in North

# Casino mogul returns to RP



## Lakas drops bet for congressman to impose 'party discipline'



## Negros solon thrown out of Lakas over FPJ

## Summer jobs offered C. Visayas students

### ROUNDUP

#### Reporter acquitted

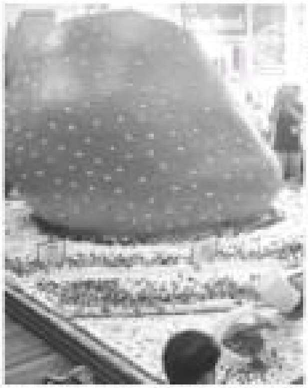
#### Health workers' plea

#### Indirect contempt

#### Dogs to sniff bombs, drugs

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

# La Trinidad bakes giant strawberry cake



GIANT strawberry bunker cake of La Trinidad Valley in Benguet hopes to land in the Guinness Book of World Records.

## Strawberry capital

# Alumni, city gov't clash over heritage building

## Uncompromising

# 3 rebs burn bus of firm that won't pay 'tax'

# Gloria appoints new execs for Cagayan Valley



# 'Hanging bridge' falls; 2 men dead, 18 injured

# Graft charges ...



ANTI-POLL FRAUD ALLIANCE

# ABS woos Dolphy back home

# FPJ son's stepfather key supporter of actor

# 5-yr public high school program on

THE CHARM OFFENSIVE








# 'White Knight' rides on firm leadership

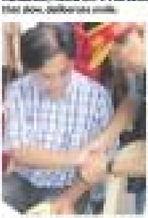


ROSARIO, PASIG CITY

### Travels light

### Doesn't wave

### People for Ping



ILAGAN, ISABELA

### What people want

### Breathtaking

### 'President has arrived'

### 13-town killer day



DAVAO CITY



# John O's son dragged into drug controversy

### Empty warehouse

### Why so large

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



# BUSINESS

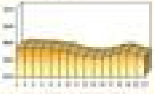
# Napocor to issue P5B worth of bonds

## CURRENCIES



## STOCK MARKET

### Stocks end lower on security worries



# Gov't steps up drive against pyramiding



## Stocks end lower

From page B1

P400.00 million.

On Monday, Smart Communications said it would buy the debt of its smaller sister Piltel, paving the way for a possible merger.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the nation's dominant telecommunications group, owns all of Smart and 45.3 percent of Piltel. Smart and Piltel together hold 57 percent of the Luzon's but only partially penetrated mobile market.

"If Smart successfully purchases the debt, that bodes positive for Piltel," said AB Capital market analyst Jose Pielago. "If Smart eventually buys into Piltel, the technical and operational skills could be used to further propel Piltel."

Shares of PLDT dipped 0.54 percent or P5 to P925 after the 1.18 percent fall in its American Depositary Receipts to $16.35.

The "B" shares of Manila Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor, fell 1.79 percent, or 50 centavos, to P27.50 after it reported a lower-than-expected fourth-quarter profit. *Reuters*



# Low-rise, high price

## Cocktails

Victor C. Agustin

### Heard through the grapevine

# PLDT offer on Piltel debt has no rating impact

# Corn production in Q1 up 8%

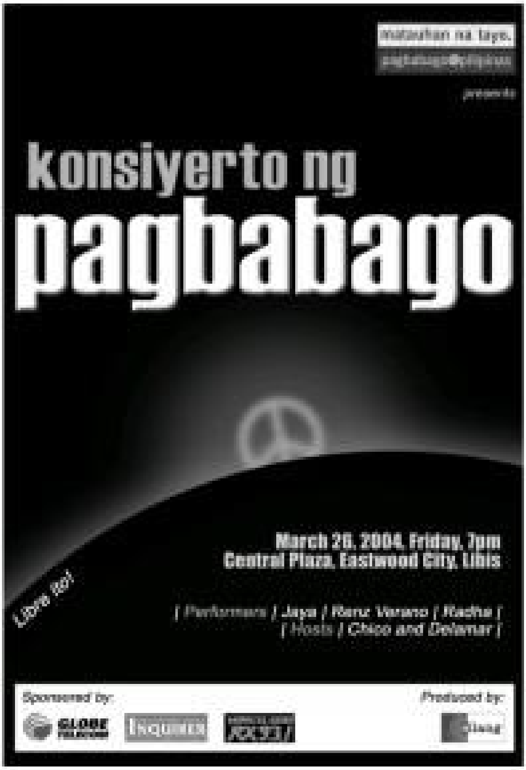
By Christine A. Gaylican

# SEC approves regulations over new trading systems

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez



# SEC to extend compliance audit of brokers



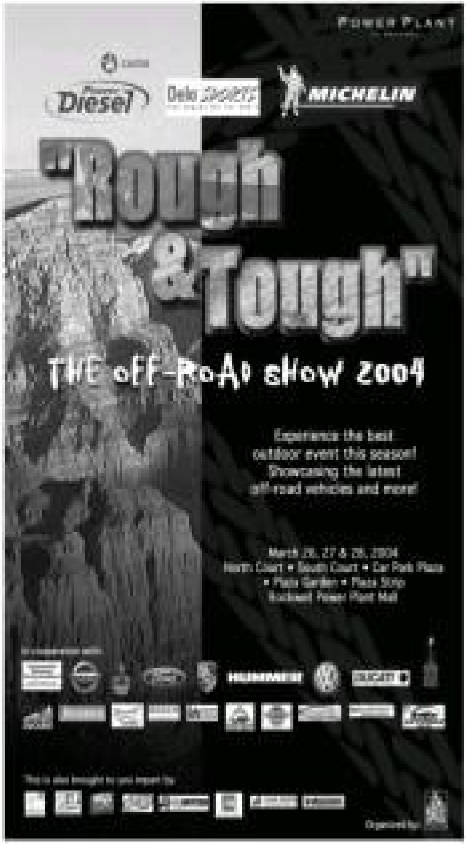
# IGLF earmarks ₱500M for garments industry

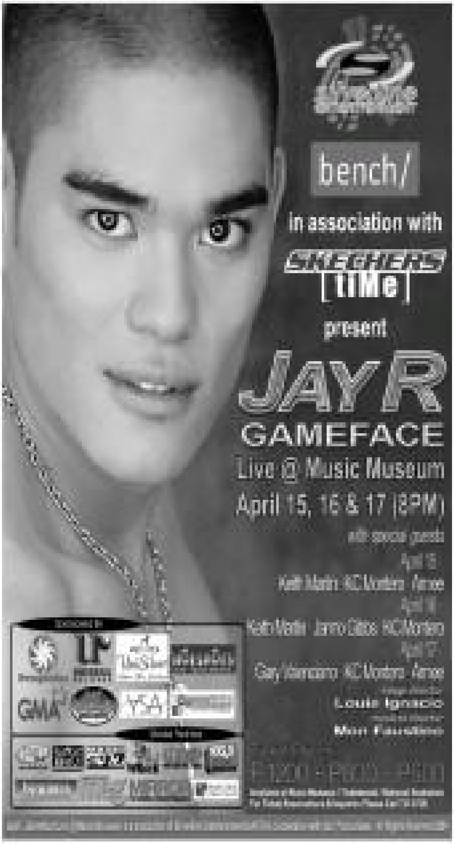
## Budget deficit widens









## Disclosures

## BSP considering $500M in new borrowings

By Doris C. Dumlao

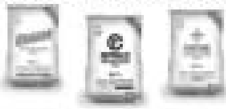
## Globe taps underwriters for $100M in 5-yr loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

## PLDT management,labor ink CBA

Clarissa S. Batino





# In Benguet, more farmers are turning to marijuana

# 2 more oil firms jack up fuel rates

## *Shell, SeaOil hike gas price by 60¢, kerosene by 40¢ per liter*

# Traders urge BSP to set up Muslim bank



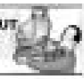
# Pranic healers promote health and harmony

By Cindy G. Villanueva



## Not quack doctors

## Testimonies



## Innate ability

## Service

## Nourishment

# A bonding of working mom 'runners'

WORKING MOM

*An Mercado Alcantara*



## Perspective

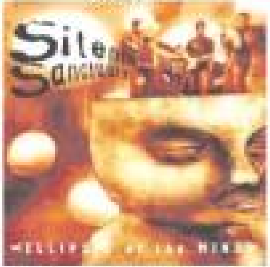
## Storytelling

## Bonding

## Human Capital Management program offered

LIFESTYLE

Editor Cheche Lazaro-Moreno [illegible]
Chief of Correspondents [illegible]



# Picks and bows

Silent Sanctuary releases its debut album called The Ellipsis of the Mind

By Diego Rosario P. Maga
2bU! Contributor

THE UNDERGROUND scene can't breathe anymore. It gives birth to new bands everyday at the rate of five per second, and one of its newest alternative babies is Silent Sanctuary.

However, this band is not your usual guitar rock-driven group. This one's got a [illegible] a six-piece group with [illegible] on vox and guitars, Paolo Legaspi on bass, Allen Callaño on drums, [illegible] on cello, Chino David on violin and [illegible] on viola.

The members are between the ages of 17 to 20 and are all still in college, except for Allen.

In the beginning, the band was a guitar-led trio. When it had the opportunity to perform in "In the Raw" at myTV (channel 37), the members arranged string parts into the songs for the special. That's how the idea for the orchestral sound was born.

Although the band never intended to [illegible] an album, the members naturally wanted [illegible] the songs they have created.

The past influences range from Apocalyptica, Dave Matthews Band, Goo Goo Dolls, Metallica, Cynthia Alexander, Bamboo, Cradle [illegible]

With the help of their parents, [illegible] and playing with real orchestras (Chino and

[illegible]

# The unbreakable sounds of Bamboo

The latest entrant in the Philippine 'bands' scene has fresh music and unpretentious lyrics to endear itself to listeners



## Seasoned musicians

## Maturity

## A year's work

# Where's Barkley?

With NBA Live 2004, PC games maker EA Sports has outdone itself—despite the absence of a few player



## Different story

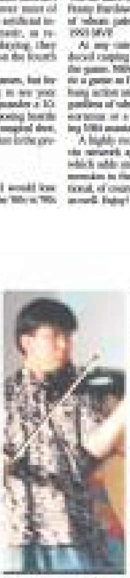
## Niggling issues

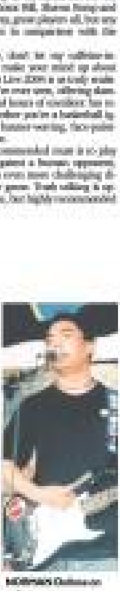
## Glaring omission

# Picks and bows



## Pleading vocals






MERRELL Convertible III

Merrell has what it takes to give its footwear competitors like Nike and Adidas a run for their money

# These sandals are made for heavy-duty stuff

By Dexter R. Matilla

# Are your feet ready to be pampered?

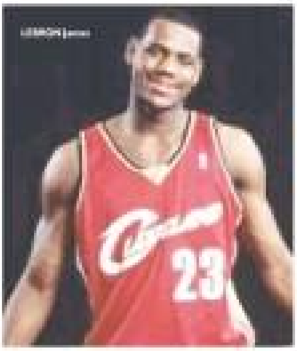




## We've got winners!


SUGARBABES

The biggest debate right now in the world of big-time basketball transfixes even local fans


LEBRON James

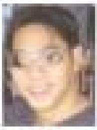
# Lebron or Carmelo?


CARMELO Anthony

By Emmanuel V. Papa
2BU Correspondent

HE has the NBA body of a power forward and the skills of a point guard, and wears the number of all numbers, the most recognizable 23.

A scoring guard at 6'8", Lebron James is certainly the most popular basketball player right now. With all the hype surrounding this 19-year-old rookie (including a $90 million deal with Nike), Lebron can't be faulted for proving that he's worth all the trumpeting hype.


MARVIN Cruz

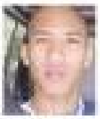
A step behind Lebron in terms of popularity or hype is the Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony. Also a 19-year-old rookie, the former Syracuse Orange Man appeals more to those who want their basketball as simple and as smooth as possible.


KAT Dimaano

With a good outside range, and an awesome scoring touch, Melo has immediately become a factor in helping make his team a potential play-off contender.

The two have already established their respective fan clubs, and the debate as to whether who's really a better baller continues to rage on.

It's fair to say that the reason the Cavaliers haven't been winning is that only a few of Lebron's teammates have been helping him carry the team while Carmelo has more dependable players surrounding him.


JOSEPH Manzano

Hmmm, let's see what some basketball fans think: Lebron or Carmelo?


JULIO Valeno

Lebron. Kahit siya yung may pinakamaraming points bilang rookie 19. —**Joseph Manzano, student-coach**

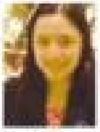
Lebron. He's bigger and stronger, and he looks like he's still reserving some part of his game. And when he plays, [illegible] others. —**Julio Valeno, conditioning coach.**

Carmelo. He has no wasted moves. Simple basketball lang siya, the way you really should play the game. Pero hindi din siya [illegible] Lebron. —**Anthony Mendoza, basketball player**


ENZO Mana

Carmelo. Mas malakas ang team niya. [illegible] Lebron [illegible]. —**Enzo Mana, student**

I like Lebron more 'cause he recognizes a mismatch and immediately capitalizes on it. [illegible] —**Marvin Cruz, basketball player**


ROSELLA Lopez

I like Carmelo 'cause he's more consistent. —**Rosella Lopez, student**

Lebron. He has the NBA body of Karl Malone and the point guard skills of Magic. Plus in a game at Chicago, he registered a triple-double as the Cavs crushed the Bulls, which made his idol, Michael Jordan (who watched the game) proud. —**Kat Dimaano, basketball player**

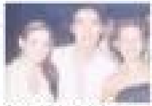

PAOLO Papa

Carmelo. 'Cause he's more fundamentally sound. [illegible] —**Paolo Papa, student**











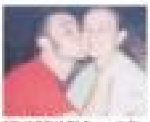
# Flex in the city



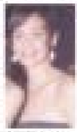
“PACKED like sardines” used to be the measure of a wildly successful event—if you were at Woodstock with the rest of the world raising the bar on rock and rave.

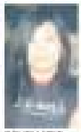














## French revolution



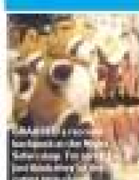


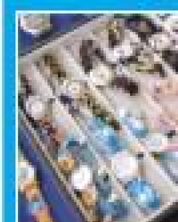












# Girls of summer



Penshoppe's beach belles welcome summer with charm and spunk

GIFTED with gorgeous looks, exuding self confidence, and blessed with a knack for making everything around them seem livelier and more vibrant, these girls ultimately fit Penshoppe's Summer Collection to a T. Meet Ingrid, Ala and Lucy as they show us how to have serious fun under the sun.





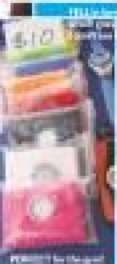




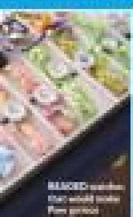
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SUMMER style from Beach Boys



# Hot pool of looks for one swell summer



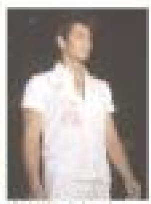
FRESH, fun and definitely flirty are the keywords to describe the look for summer 2004.

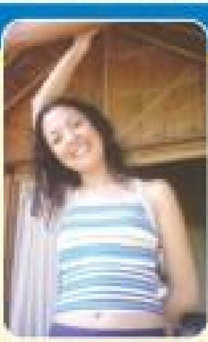
## What's hot!

## Mattah, hattah











# LIFESTYLE

# Leaders-in-training



FORMER president Cory Aquino delivers the keynote address.

Youthful idealism finds a mentor in the Young Leaders Congress

By [illegible]
[illegible] Correspondent

AT FIRST glance, the place looked almost like a juvenile prison camp—dozens of young people seated and eating breakfast, all of them wearing orange jackets with blue letters printed on the back.

But it was no prison camp. It was the [illegible] Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC), and the people in orange jackets are 75 student leaders from all over the country who had gathered in scenic Tagaytay City for the three-day live-in conference.

The AYLC is an annual event started in 1999 by the Ayala Group of Companies. The congress brings together the country's best student leaders and puts them through discussions and activities that help develop their leadership skills.

The theme for this year's congress was "Leadership for Nation-Building," which, considering the national situation, was indeed a timely theme.

Former president Cory Aquino delivered the keynote address, and the list of guest speakers and facilitators contained the names of heavyweights in various fields: Sheila Coronel, Winnie Monsod, Randy David, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Francis Pangilinan, Tina Monzon-Palma and many others.

After each session, the delegates were given the chance to ask, or, as a female delegate from the Philippine Military Academy put it, "shoot" questions. They then had group discussions to share their thoughts and experiences, and have a lot of healthy debate.

The delegates also participated in some grueling physical activities. They scaled walls and crawled through obstacles. The one activity that the participants could not stop talking about was the Leap of Faith, where they had to climb up a tall pole, do the "three-step," and then leap and reach for a rope that would take them back down.

Besides being a lot of fun, these activities were supposed to teach the participants [illegible] values, confidence and teamwork.



PARTICIPANTS scale a wall.



YOUNG leaders share their thoughts and experiences in small groups.

## Tough screening

How did these 75 students get the chance to be part of the AYLC?

As [illegible] and [illegible], two of the event's organizers, explained it, CHED-accredited schools are asked to nominate a maximum of 10 outstanding third-year students every year. The organizers would usually get 600 to 800 nominees.

All nominees must first go through a "cold screening," where a preprogrammed machine assigns a score for each position or award that a nominee has.

The 300 nominees with the highest scores then move on to a "paper screening." Each one

CONTINUED ON PAGE [illegible]



GUEST speakers Maria Ressa, Danny Javier and Francis Pangilinan



AYLC 2004 participants

# Leaders-in-training

From page C1

is asked to write an essay. 100 people from this number are then interviewed by top leaders, along with the CVs of nominees, to determine the most suitable candidates. After this round, the number is trimmed down to 150.

The survivors are then individually interviewed. In the end, 70 to 75 delegates are selected. The lucky ones get to go on an all-expense-paid trip to Tagaytay City, where they participate in the AYLC.

## Clear appreciation

What is so special about this year's group of delegates? "This is the first time ever that we have more males than females," said Dolendo. "There was a year when the ratio was 1:2."

"If you look at the questions they were asking, it's a group that has a very clear appreciation of what's happening around them. They are highly intelligent," Dolendo added.

Considering the tough selection process that the selected students went through, it is hardly surprising that this group is considered the cream of the crop of the country's college population.

Only time will tell if this group of young people will become the kind of leaders they are expected to be. But, given the idealism and enthusiasm they showed during the congress, even the most hardened cynic will have to admit that, yes, there may be hope for this country after all.

# Young movers: 3 delegates speak